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*Counsel for CenturyLink Communications, LLC*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
<b>SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION,</b>	)	
<i>et al.</i> ,	)	Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)
	)	
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)
	)	

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**JOINDER OF CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC TO LIMITED  
OBJECTION OF STANLEY BLACK & DECKER, INC. TO THE DEBTORS' NOTICE  
REGARDING INITIAL DISTRIBUTION PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM**

CenturyLink Communications, LLC, including its parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, including Level 3 Communications, LLC (collectively "CenturyLink"), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby file its *Joinder* ("Joinder") to the *Limited Objection Of Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. to the Debtors' Notice Regarding Initial Distribution Pursuant To Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program* [ECF No. 6198] (the "SBD Objection") and further objects to the *Notice Regarding Initial Distribution Pursuant to Administrative Expense Claims Consent*

Program (the “Notice”) [ECF No. 6186]. CenturyLink respectfully states as follows in joining and seeking inclusion as an Initial Distribution participant:

**JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO ENTER A FINAL ORDER**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter and the parties hereto pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and this matter constitutes a “core” proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157.

**FACTUAL BACKGROUND REGARDING CENTURYLINK**

2. The above-referenced Debtors (“Debtors”) filed their voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code on October 15, 2018 (the “Petition Date”). Debtors continue to operate their business and manage their property as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107(a) and 1108.

3. Prior to the Petition Date, Debtors and CenturyLink were parties to multiple agreements under which CenturyLink provides, generally, various telecommunications goods and services to Debtors under dozens of Accounts (collectively, the “Accounts”).

4. On January 18, 2019, Debtors filed a *Notice of Cure Costs and Potential Assumption and Assignment of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases in Connection with Global Sale Transaction* which designated a cure amount for potentially assuming and assigning the Accounts. (See ECF No. 1731, rows numbered 1514–15 and 3706–07).

5. CenturyLink filed a timely *Objection of CenturyLink Communications, LLC and Level 3 Communications, LLC to Proposed Cure Amount* on January 25, 2019 [ECF No. 1963].

6. On April 2, 2019, the Court entered the *Order (I) Authorizing Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts and Leases and (II) Granting Related Relief* [ECF No. 3008].

7. On May 20, 2019, Debtors filed their *Notice of Assumption and Assignment of Additional Executory Contracts* which represented, regarding Accounts with Level 3 Communications, LLC, “Cure Amount Resolved.” (See ECF No. 3950, row numbered 140).

8. On May 21, 2019, Debtors filed their *Notice of Assumption and Assignment of Additional Executory Contracts* which represented, regarding Accounts with Level 3 Communications, LLC, “Cure Amount Resolved.” (See ECF No. 3973, rows numbered 3–5).

9. On May 28, 2019, CenturyLink timely filed its *Supplemental Objection of Level 3 Communications, LLC to Proposed Cure Amount* [ECF No. 4051], detailing that while CenturyLink does not object to the assumption and assignment of the Accounts, CenturyLink does oppose assumption and assignment to the extent proposed cure amounts fail to satisfy existing defaults under all of the Accounts in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 365(b).

**CenturyLink Filed Opt-In Ballot**

10. On November 20, 2019, counsel for CenturyLink and Debtors reached an agreement for CenturyLink to file its Opt-In Ballot (“Opt-In Ballot”), considered by Debtors as timely due to Debtors improperly sending the Opt-In Ballot to CenturyLink lockboxes. (See Ex. A).

11. On November 20, 2019, CenturyLink filed its Opt-In Ballot, Unique E-Ballot ID# 182353801022528, with a comprehensive administrative claim amount for all CenturyLink entities in the amount of \$331,086.28. (See Ex. B).

12. To CenturyLink’s knowledge, neither Debtors nor any agent of Debtors inquired with CenturyLink regarding either CenturyLink’s timely filed Opt-In Ballot or CenturyLink’s administrative claim amount.

13. Since February 2019, CenturyLink has regularly engaged Debtors and Transform Holdco, LLC regarding administrative claim amounts, cure amounts, and Debtors and/or Transform Holdco, LLC's cure and assumption of Accounts. The most recent negotiations between CenturyLink and Debtors and/or Transform Holdco, LLC occurred on December 12, 2019 during which Debtors and/or Transform Holdco, LLC indicated an intent to cure and assume or cure, assume, and assign fourteen Accounts.

### **CENTURYLINK'S JOINDER**

14. In addition to the arguments made here, and in the SBD Objection, CenturyLink joins in the SBD Objection, adopting the arguments as if fully set forth here.

15. CenturyLink opted in to the Consent Program to recover as much of the amounts owed from Debtors for the goods and services CenturyLink provided, in light of the risk of Debtors' administrative insolvency. According to the *Notice of Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program and Opt-In/Opt-Out Procedures* [ECF No. 5370-2, starting on page 93/154], those parties that affirmatively opted-in to the program "shall receive, among other things: (i) their pro rata share of \$21 million ("Initial Cash Pool"), on or about December 1, 2019." (See ECF No. 5370-2, p. 2).

16. In reliance on the promises made by Debtors' counsel and Debtors' Consent Program, CenturyLink did not file its own motion for an administrative expense claim. Debtors either mistakenly omitted CenturyLink from the Notice, or are attempting to pull the rug from CenturyLink to improve the solvency of the estate. Regardless, if the distribution moves forward as proposed by Debtors without including CenturyLink, then CenturyLink will not receive the benefits promised by Debtors. Among other detriments, CenturyLink will not receive an initial

distribution from the Initial Cash Pool, and may never receive any payment for the administrative goods and services it provided to Debtors.

17. In addition, CenturyLink reiterates, as previously stated at points in the pleadings above, that CenturyLink is entitled to an administrative claim pursuant to 11 U.S.C §§ 503(b)(1)(A) and 365(d)(5).

18. Section 503(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides in relevant part:

(b) After notice and hearing, there shall be allowed, administrative expenses, other than claims allowed under section 502(f) of this title, including—

(1)(A) the actual necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate. . . .

19. “Courts in the Second Circuit use a two-part test to determine whether a specific claim qualifies as an administrative expense under section 503(b)(1)(A): first, there must be a postpetition transaction, making it a transaction between the debtor-in-possession and the creditor; and second, the estate must receive a benefit from the transaction.” *In re Grubb & Ellis Co.*, 478 B.R. 622, 624 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2012) (citing *Trustees of the Amalgamated Ins. Fund v. McFarlin’s, Inc.*, 789 F.2d 98, 101 (2d Cir. 1986)). Further, “[t]he services performed by the claimant must have been ‘induced’ by the debtor-in-possession, not the pre-petition debtor.” *In re Enron Corp.*, 279 B.R. 79, 85. (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2002).

20. Because Debtors required the benefits of the pre-petition Accounts post-petition, the expenses incurred arose post-petition and establish a post-petition transaction between Debtors and CenturyLink.

21. Concerning the second requirement, there is no question that the telecommunications equipment and services provided a benefit to Debtors in the operation of their business. CenturyLink provided telecommunication equipment and services to Debtors. Given the

modern workplace's dependency on connectivity, Debtors' reliance on online sales, and Debtors' nationwide (and beyond) operation, Debtors would not have been able to continue operating without the assistance of CenturyLink.

22. Section 503(b)(1) is intended "to provide an incentive for creditors to continue doing business with a debtor and an incentive for others to engage in business transactions with the debtor." 4 *Collier on Bankruptcy*, 503.06[3][a] (16th ed. 2014). CenturyLink acted in accordance with the policies behind the statute and provided critical support to Debtors. The Court should approve the allowance and immediate payment of CenturyLink's administrative claims because doing so is consistent with the policy behind Section 503(b)(1).

23. Alternatively, 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(5) requires Debtors to "timely perform all of the obligations of the debtor, except those specified in section 365(b)(2), first arising from or after 60 days after the order for relief in a case under chapter 11 of this title under an unexpired lease of personal property . . . until such lease is assumed or rejected notwithstanding section 503(b)(1) of this title . . ."

24. The telecommunications equipment and services provided by CenturyLink to Debtors more likely than not includes hardware and private telecommunications lines – personal property – among other types of potential personal property.

25. Courts recognize that analyses entitling § 365(d)(3) claims to administrative claim treatment under section 503(b) are applicable to section 365(d)(5) claims as well. *In re Bella Logistics LLC*, 583 B.R. 674, 681, n.7 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2018).

26. A majority of courts, including the Second Circuit, interpret section 365(d)(3) claims as obligating a debtor to perform all post-petition obligations under a lease, notwithstanding section 503(b)(1), and automatically treat such claims as administrative expense claims. *In re BH*

*S&B Holdings LLC*, 401 B.R. 96, 103–04 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009). “There is authority that lessors of non-consumer personal property can resort to either §§ 365(d)(5) or 503(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code to assert administrative claims against a debtor for lease payments due after the filing of a bankruptcy case.” *In re Stone Barn Manhattan LLC*, 405 B.R. 68, 76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009).

27. CenturyLink's executory agreements with Debtors for private lines and hardware – personal property – fall within the bounds of 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(5), dictating that CenturyLink's unpaid post-petition amounts be awarded administrative claim status, and inclusion in the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.

### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

WHEREFORE, CenturyLink respectfully requests an order:

- (a) Granting CenturyLink's inclusion in the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program, for the entire amount of CenturyLink's administrative claim in the Opt-In Ballot; and
- (b) Granting such other and further relief as is just, equitable and proper.

Dated: December 13, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

STINSON LLP

/s/ Brittany M. Michael  
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Denver, CO 80265  
Telephone: (303) 376-8414

*Counsel for CenturyLink Communications, LLC*

# **EXHIBIT A**

**Kitchen, Kevin P.**

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**From:** DiDonato, Phil <Philip.DiDonato@weil.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Lucas L.; Singh, Sunny  
**Cc:** Caldie, Ed; Kitchen, Kevin P.  
**Subject:** RE: In re Sears - Case No. 18-23538 - CenturyLink - Stipulation Resolving Objections

**External Email – Use Caution**

Lucas,

We can allow you to opt-in to the Consent Program, and I will direct Prime Clerk to accept CenturyLink's ballots as timely. We will get comments to you on the stipulation shortly.

Thanks,  
Phil



Weil

Philip DiDonato

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New York, NY 10153  
[Philip.DiDonato@weil.com](mailto:Philip.DiDonato@weil.com)  
+1 212 310 8636 Direct  
+1 212 310 8007 Fax

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**From:** Schneider, Lucas L. <lucas.schneider@stinson.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 5:06 PM  
**To:** Singh, Sunny <sunny.singh@weil.com>; DiDonato, Phil <Philip.DiDonato@weil.com>  
**Cc:** Caldie, Ed <ed.caldie@stinson.com>; kevin.kitchen@stinson.com  
**Subject:** RE: In re Sears - Case No. 18-23538 - CenturyLink - Stipulation Resolving Objections

**INADMISSIBLE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS PER FRE 408**

Good Afternoon Sunny and Phil,

Due to a combination of CenturyLink never receiving ballots and ballots being improperly sent to payment lockboxes, CenturyLink was not able to file its Opt-In Ballot, opting in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program until today, through one comprehensive ballot. I ask that you confirm that Debtors consent to allowing CenturyLink's Opt-In Ballot to be treated as timely.

We can also commit this agreement to a revision in the proposed Stipulation if necessary.

Thank you in advance,

Lucas

**Lucas L. Schneider**

Attorney

**STINSON LLP**

1050 17th Street, Suite 2400  
Denver, CO 80265  
Direct: 303.376.8414

Assistant: Amy Mercier | 303.376.8419 | [amy.mercier@stinson.com](mailto:amy.mercier@stinson.com)

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**From:** Schneider, Lucas L.

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 8:58 AM

**To:** 'Singh, Sunny' <[sunny.singh@weil.com](mailto:sunny.singh@weil.com)>; 'philip.didonato@weil.com' <[philip.didonato@weil.com](mailto:philip.didonato@weil.com)>; 'craig.martin@dlapiper.com' <[craig.martin@dlapiper.com](mailto:craig.martin@dlapiper.com)>; 'richard.chesley@dlapiper.com' <[richard.chesley@dlapiper.com](mailto:richard.chesley@dlapiper.com)>

**Cc:** Caldie, Ed <[ed.caldie@stinson.com](mailto:ed.caldie@stinson.com)>; Kitchen, Kevin P. <[kevin.kitchen@stinson.com](mailto:kevin.kitchen@stinson.com)>

**Subject:** RE: In re Sears - Case No. 18-23538 - CenturyLink - Stipulation Resolving Objections

Good Morning All,

Checking in on your review of the attached. If a call would help in moving this forward, please let me know.

Regards,  
Lucas

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**From:** Schneider, Lucas L.

**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 11:55 AM

**To:** Singh, Sunny <[sunny.singh@weil.com](mailto:sunny.singh@weil.com)>; 'philip.didonato@weil.com' <[philip.didonato@weil.com](mailto:philip.didonato@weil.com)>; 'craig.martin@dlapiper.com' <[craig.martin@dlapiper.com](mailto:craig.martin@dlapiper.com)>; 'richard.chesley@dlapiper.com' <[richard.chesley@dlapiper.com](mailto:richard.chesley@dlapiper.com)>

**Cc:** Caldie, Ed <[ed.caldie@stinson.com](mailto:ed.caldie@stinson.com)>; Kitchen, Kevin P. <[kevin.kitchen@stinson.com](mailto:kevin.kitchen@stinson.com)>

**Subject:** In re Sears - Case No. 18-23538 - CenturyLink - Stipulation Resolving Objections

**INADMISSIBLE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS PER FRE 408**

Good Afternoon Sunny, Phil, Craig, and Richard,

As you may know, our office represents CenturyLink and its affiliates regarding the Sears bankruptcy. Our respective clients' business personnel have been in regular communications, negotiating cure amounts and the accounts that will be cured, assumed, and assigned. To that end, attached is a stipulation that CenturyLink offers to resolve the current objections of record, along with issues regarding cure, assumption, assignment, and CenturyLink's administrative claims.

I look forward to working with you on this.

Regards,  
Lucas

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# **EXHIBIT B**

SRF 36417

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Ray C. Schrock, P.C.  
Jacqueline Marcus  
Garrett A. Fail  
Sunny Singh  
*Attorneys for Debtors  
and Debtors in Possession*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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In re : Chapter 11  
SEARS HOLDINGS CORPORATION, *et al.* : Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)  
Debtors.<sup>1</sup> : (Jointly Administered)  
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**NOTICE OF**

**(I) BALLOT TO OPT-IN TO ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM AND  
(II) BALLOT TO OPT-OUT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM**

**PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE ENCLOSED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE  
COMPLETING THE (I) OPT-IN BALLOT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A OR  
(II) OPT-OUT BALLOT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT B.**

**IF YOU DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO BE BOUND BY THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM, BUT NOT ENTITLED TO THE  
BENEFITS THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO HOLDERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS  
WHO TIMELY OPT IN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM, AS  
DESCRIBED BELOW.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are set forth in the *Order Directing Joint Administration of Related Chapter 11 Cases* (ECF No. 118). The location of the Debtors' service address is 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60179.

**IN ORDER FOR YOUR OPT-IN BALLOT OR OPT-OUT BALLOT TO BE EFFECTIVE,**  
**THE APPLICABLE BALLOT MUST BE ACTUALLY RECEIVED BY**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2019,<sup>2</sup> AT 4:00 P.M. (PREVAILING EASTERN TIME)**  
**(THE “OPT-IN/OPT-OUT DEADLINE”).**

FAILURE TO OPT-IN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM BY COMPLETING AND TIMELY SUBMITTING AN OPT-IN BALLOT MEANS YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED PARTICIPATE IN TO THE INITIAL DISTRIBUTION (AS DEFINED HEREIN).

FAILURE TO OPT-OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM BY COMPLETING AND TIMELY SUBMITTING AN OPT-OUT BALLOT WILL BIND YOU TO THE TERMS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM.

On October 15, 2019, the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “**Bankruptcy Court**”) entered an order confirming the *Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Sears Holdings Corporation and its Affiliated Debtors* [ECF No. 5293] (the “**Plan**”),<sup>3</sup> approving, among other things, a proposed consent program for holders of Administrative Expense Claims (the “**Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program**”) by and among the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”), the Creditors’ Committee and the Ad Hoc Vendor Group<sup>4</sup> [ECF No. 5370] (the “**Confirmation Order**”).<sup>5</sup>

You are receiving the opt-in ballot (the “**Opt-In Ballot**”), attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and the opt-out ballot (the “**Opt-Out Ballot**” and together with the Opt-In Ballot, the “**Election Ballots**”), attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, because, as a holder of an Administrative Expense Claim,<sup>6</sup> you are entitled to opt-in to or opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.

**If you do not take any action, you will be deemed to have opted in and will be bound by the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program, but not entitled to any benefits that will be provided to holders of Administrative Expense Claims who affirmatively opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program prior to the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline, namely, participation in an initial distribution of \$21 million on or about December 1, 2019 to all holders of Administrative Expense Claims who opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.**

All Holders of Administrative Expense Claims (other than the Ad Hoc Vendor Group that is deemed to have opted-in) have an option to opt-in to or opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program and releases contained therein. **The Creditors’ Committee and the Debtors recommend that you affirmatively opt-in to and do not opt-out the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.**

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<sup>2</sup> Thirty-three (33) days after service of this notice.

<sup>3</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Confirmation Order or the Plan.

<sup>4</sup> The “**Ad Hoc Vendor Group**” means collectively, Whitebox Asymmetric Partners, LP, Whitebox Multi-Strategy Partners, LP, Hain Capital Investors Master Fund, Ltd., and Cherokee Debt Acquisition, LLC.

<sup>5</sup> Copies of the Plan, Confirmation Order, and the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program Term Sheet may be accessed free of charge by visiting the website maintained by the Debtors’ agent, Prime Clerk, LLC (the “**Claims and Noticing Agent**”) at <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>.

<sup>6</sup> Specifically, you are receiving the Election Ballots because either (i) the Debtors believe you may be a Holder of an Administrative Expense Claim as of August 6, 2019 or (ii) you filed a proof of Administrative Expense Claim, filed a motion seeking allowance of an Administrative Expense Claim, or have otherwise asserted an Administrative Expense Claim in these Chapter 11 Cases.

#### **TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMHOLDERS WHO AFFIRMATIVELY OPT-IN**

All holders of Allowed Administrative Expense Claims that affirmatively opt-in (the “**Opt-In Settled Admin Claims**”) to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program prior to the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline shall receive, among other things:<sup>7</sup>

- Their pro rata share of \$21 million (“**Initial Cash Pool**”), on or about December 1, 2019 (the percentage recovery, the “**Initial Recovery**”);
- total recovery capped at 75% of the Allowed Administrative Expense Claim;
- such \$21 million shall only be available to holders of Opt-In Settled Admin Claims who consensually agree with the Debtors to the Allowed amount of the Opt-In Settled Admin Claims;
- consensual reconciliation of the Allowed amount of Opt-In Settled Admin Claims (including on account of 503(b)(9) and 503(b)(1) issues regarding inducement, date of receipt, port of origin, etc., and any exposure on account of preference actions), to be completed within 30 days from the date of receipt of the Opt-In Ballot (the “**Expedited Reconciliation**”);
- to the extent the Debtors, the Creditors’ Committee, and the holder of the Opt-In Settled Admin Claim are unable to consensually resolve the Allowed amount, such resolution shall be subject to reconciliation on an agreed-upon schedule as reasonably agreed to by the Debtors, the Creditors’ Committee, and the applicable holder of an Opt-In Settled Admin Claim;
- for the avoidance of doubt, any waiver or settlement of any preference action shall be considered on a case-by-case basis; and
- holders who do not agree with the Debtors and the Creditors’ Committee on the Allowed amount of Opt-In Settled Admin Claims shall be deemed to hold a Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claim.

#### **TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMHOLDERS WHO NEITHER OPT-IN NOR OPT-OUT**

All Holders of an Allowed Administrative Expense Claim against the Debtors who neither (i) opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program nor (ii) opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program prior to the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline (the “**Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims**,” and together with the Opt-In Settled Admin Claims, the “**Settled Administrative Expense Claims**”) shall receive, among other things:

- its pro rata share of the Second Distribution, which will be shared only by other holders of Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims until they have received a percentage of distribution on their Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims that is equal to the Initial Recovery provided to holders of Opt-In Settled Claims;
- total recovery capped at 80% of the Allowed Administrative Expense Claim (together with the Initial Recovery, the “**Settled Admin Expense Claims Recovery**”);
- Expedited Reconciliation to be completed within 30 days from the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline;
- to the extent the Debtors, the Creditors’ Committee, and the holder of the Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claim are unable to consensually resolve the Allowed amount, such resolution shall be subject to reconciliation on an agreed-upon schedule as reasonably agreed to by the Debtors, the Creditors’ Committee, and the applicable holder of a Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claim; and
- any waiver or settlement of any preference action shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**All holders of Administrative Expense Claims who do not opt out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program** will be deemed to be satisfied in full on account of such claim once they have received payment in cash equal to (i) 75% of the applicable Allowed Administrative Expense Claim on account of Opt-In Settled Admin

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<sup>7</sup> The following is an illustrative summary of the benefits of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable provisions in the Confirmation Order.

Claims, and (ii) 80% of the applicable Allowed Administrative Expense Claim on account of Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims. Any Distributions made on account of Settled Administrative Expense Claims shall not be subject to disgorgement, including without limitation, upon any conversion or dismissal of the Chapter 11 Cases. And upon entry of the Confirmation Order, all Settled Administrative Expense Claims shall be Allowed against the Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases on a consolidated basis, or upon any conversion or dismissal of the Chapter 11 Cases.

#### **TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMHOLDERS WHO OPT-OUT**

If you **opt out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program** prior to the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline, you will retain the right to receive payment of the Allowed 100% of your Administrative Expense Claim, but payment of your Administrative Expense Claim shall occur on the latest of (i) the Effective Date, (ii) the first Business Day after the date that is thirty (30) calendar days after the date such Administrative Expense Claim is Allowed, and (iii) the next Distribution Date after such Administrative Expense Claim is Allowed. Holders of opt-out Claims will not be entitled to participate in the Initial Distribution, Second Distribution, or any further distribution until the Plan has become effective or the Settled Administrative Expense Claims have been satisfied.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Pursuant to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program, holders bound by the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program shall be paid in the following order of priority: (1) Holders of Opt-In Settled Admin Claims of their pro rata share of the Initial Cash Pool; (2) Holders of Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims of their pro rata share up to a percentage recovery equal to the Initial Recovery; and (3) all Holders bound by the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program of the remaining unpaid amount of their Allowed Administrative Expense Claims up to the Settled Admin Expense Claims Recovery.

Each Holder of a Settled Administrative Expense Claim also agrees (1) to support the Plan; and (2) that acceptance of and consent to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program will be deemed consent to the Plan, acceptance of the treatment under the Plan in satisfaction of section 1129(a)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, and agreement to provides the releases included in the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.

#### **Treatment of Holders of Administrative Expense Claims Under Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program**

	Opt-In Settled Admin Claims	Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims	Opt-Out Administrative Expense Claims
<b>Maximum Recovery on Account of Allowed Administrative Expense Claim</b>	75% of Allowed Amount	80% of Allowed Amount	100% of Allowed Amount
<b>Participates in Distribution of \$21 million Initial Cash Pool on or about December 1, 2019</b>	Yes	No	No
<b>Participates in Second Distribution</b>	No <sup>8</sup>	Yes	No
<b>Distribution on the Later of (i) the Effective Date, (ii) 30 days after Allowance of the Claim, and (iii) the next Distribution Date after Allowance of the Claim</b>	N/A	N/A	Yes

<sup>8</sup> To the extent there are any amounts remaining for distribution after the Non Opt-out Settled Admin Claims have received the percentage recovery equal to the Initial Recovery, the Opt-In Settled Admin Claims shall share pro rata in such excess with the Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims.

Claims Reconciliation to occur	Within 30 days of receipt of Opt-In Ballot	Within 30 days after Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline	In ordinary course
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### INSTRUCTION FOR OPTING-IN OR OPTING-OUT

In order to opt-in to or opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program, you must complete, execute, and submit your Opt-In Ballot or Opt-Out Ballot to the Claims and Noticing Agent so that your Opt-In Ballot or Opt-Out Ballot is actually received by the Claims and Noticing Agent on or before the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline, which is November 18, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

**You are strongly encouraged to review the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program Term Sheet and the Plan before you make an election. You may wish to seek legal advice concerning the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program and the Election Ballots.**

**Acceptable Methods to Complete and Submit Your Election Ballots.** You may elect to opt-in to or opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program by completing and submitting (i) an electronic Opt-In Ballot or Opt-Out Ballot through the dedicated, online portal maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent (“**E-Ballot**”) or (ii) one of the paper-copy Election Ballots (the “**Paper Election Ballots**”). In either case (E-Ballot or Paper Election Ballots), you must submit your Opt-In Ballot or Opt-Out Ballot to the Claims and Noticing Agent so that it is actually received by the Claims and Noticing Agent on or before the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadlines.

### CERTAIN RISK FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

#### 1. Risks Related to Debtors’ Ability to Make Distributions

##### (a) Debtors’ Assets Available for Distributions

As described in greater detail in the Griffith Declaration, Murphy Declaration, and Transier Declaration,<sup>9</sup> the Debtors’ Assets as of the September 18, 2019 include approximately \$173.5 million comprised of (i) approximately \$50.1 million in cash on hand, (ii) \$33.4 million on account of other Assets to be monetized, and (iii) approximately \$97 million owed by Transform for the assumptions of 503(b)(9) Claims<sup>10</sup> (the “**Additional Asset Proceeds**”):

Sources		
Cash on Hand at 9/18/19	\$	50.1
Calder Net Proceeds		10.0
Real Estate Proceeds		13.1
De Minimis Assets		5.3
2017 EDA Funds		5.0
Transform 503(b)(9) Obligations		90.0
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>173.5</b>

**In addition**, the Debtors believe they will receive significant recoveries from the proceeds of certain valuable litigation assets, including avoidance action arising under section 547 of the Bankruptcy Code or any comparable “preference” action arising under applicable non-bankruptcy law (collectively, the “**Preference Actions**”), certain

<sup>9</sup> Declaration of Brian J. Griffith in Support of Confirmation of Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Liquidation of Sears Holdings Corporation and its Affiliated Debtors (ECF No. 5148) (the “**Griffith Declaration**”), Declaration of William Murphy in Support of Confirmation of Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Liquidation of Sears Holdings Corporation and its Affiliated Debtors (ECF No. 5149) (the “**Murphy Declaration**”), Declaration of William L. Transier in Support of Confirmation of Modified Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Liquidation of Sears Holdings Corporation and its Affiliated Debtors (ECF No. 5146) (the “**Transier Declaration**”).

<sup>10</sup> The Debtors believe that pursuant to section 2.3(k)(ix) of the Asset Purchase Agreement, Transform is obligated to assume approximately \$97 million on account of 503(b)(9) Claims. The \$90 million reflected herein ties to the \$90 million of estimated 503(b)(9) Claims; to the extent the 503(b)(9) Claims are in excess of \$90 million, Transform shall be liable to assume up to \$97 million on account of 503(b)(9) Claims pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement. Transform disputes that it owes such amounts to the Debtors.

prepetition related party transaction claims against ESL Investments, Inc. and its affiliates (“ESL”) and other parties, and potential settlements with insurers with respect to claims against the D&O Policy (together the “**Litigation Proceeds**”), although there can be no assurance of any recovery:

- **Preference Actions.** The Debtors estimate that they will receive at least approximately \$100 million in recoveries from Preference Actions out of an excess of \$1.345 billion of gross total transfers in the preference window, which is consistent with comparable transactions where the average range of recoveries is from 11.4% if the gross total transfers pursued or, alternatively 23.7% of those transfers, net of subsequent new value. *See* Griffith Decl., ¶¶ 64-70.
- **ESL Litigation.** The Debtors’ Restructuring Subcommittee and the Creditors’ Committee both have investigated the prepetition related party transaction claims and concluded that such claims are meritorious. On April 17, 2019 the Restructuring Subcommittee, on behalf of certain of the Debtors, filed an adversary complaint against ESL Investments, Inc., its affiliates, various third parties, and certain of the Debtors’ directors and officers (ECF No. 3278) (the “**Subcommittee Adversary Complaint**”), seeking over \$2 billion in damages arising from certain prepetition related party transactions. *See* Transier Decl., ¶¶ 20-27. As of the date hereof, the Court has not heard any arguments or considered any evidence in connection with the Subcommittee Adversary Complaint. Current and prospective defendants dispute the validity of Claims asserted in the Subcommittee Adversary Complaint, and there is no assurance of any recovery.
- **D&O Insurance.** The Debtors believe they may be able to receive significant recoveries against available D&O Policies on account of Preserved Causes of Action against the Specified Directors and Officers. The Debtors believe that there is at least approximately \$150 million of available directors and officers liability insurance that provides a source of recovery to the Debtor plaintiffs in the Subcommittee Adversary Complaint against parties (in their capacity as directors and/or officers) who are covered by such insurance. Certain defendants (such as ESL, Lampert and the Seritage parties) in the Subcommittee Adversary Complaint may also be liable for sums separate and apart from any available insurance coverage. *See* Transier Decl., ¶ 28. Certain insurers have disclaimed coverage under certain of the D&O Policies.

There can be no assurance that the Debtors will be able to successfully monetize their Assets in the projected amounts or when such Assets will be monetized. There is a risk that the Net Proceeds of Total Assets, including the Litigation Proceeds, may be significantly less than projected, which, in turn, could cause the amount and timing of Distributions to adversely change substantially. Further, unanticipated events and circumstances may affect the ultimate recoveries.

**(b) Debtors’ Estimate of Outstanding Claims on the Effective Date**

The Debtors and their advisors have conducted an extensive analysis to estimate the Debtors’ outstanding Claims pool and are continuing to review and analyze Claims. The Debtors have filed and intend to continue to file objections to Claims. In the aggregate, the Debtors believe that the sources above will be enough to satisfy the Debtors’ estimate of outstanding Claims by the Effective Date:

Uses	Low Claims	High Claims
Liquidating Trust funding	\$ (25.0)	\$ (25.0)
Remaining estate professional fees	(9.0)	(9.0)
503(b)(9)	(90.0)	(155.0)
Other Admin Claims	(50.0)	(50.0)
Secured	(18.0)	(18.0)
Priority Tax	(15.0)	(18.0)
Priority Non-Tax	(3.0)	(3.0)
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$ (210.0)</b>	<b>\$ (278.0)</b>
<b>Total Potential Shortfall (without Litigation Proceeds)</b>	<b>\$ (36.5)</b>	<b>\$ (104.5)</b>

But, there can be no assurance that the estimated Allowed amount of Claims will not be significantly more than projected, which, in turn, could cause the total recovery on Administrative Expense Claims to be lower. Some assumptions may not materialize, and unanticipated events and circumstances may affect the ultimate results. Therefore, the actual amount of Allowed Claims may vary from the Debtors' feasibility analysis, and the variation may be material.

**(c) Distribution Funding Sources**

The Initial Cash Pool, the Second Distribution, additional pre-Effective Date distributions to Settled Administrative Expense Claims, and post-Effective Date Distributions to Opt-Out Claims, will be funded from the following sources, as follows:

	<b>Within three (3) Business Days of Entry of the Confirmation Order<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>Post-Confirmation Date, Pre-Effective Date</b>	<b>Post-Effective Date</b>
<b>Initial Cash Pool (\$21 million) for the Initial Distribution to Opt-In Settled Admin Claims only</b>	\$16 million funded from: (i) unrestricted cash on hand and (ii) a minimum of \$3 million from the Carve-Out Account	\$5 million from Additional Asset Proceeds and/or Litigation Proceeds (to occur prior to the Initial Distribution)	N/A
<b>Second Distribution to Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims<sup>12</sup></b>	N/A	Subject to the Minimum Conditions, <sup>13</sup> from Additional Asset Proceeds and/or Litigation Proceeds	N/A
<b>Further Distribution(s) to Settled Admin Claims</b>	N/A	Subject to the Second Distribution, from Additional Asset Proceeds and/or Litigation Proceeds	N/A
<b>Distributions to Opt-Out Claims</b>	N/A	N/A	From Additional Asset Proceeds and/or Litigation Proceeds

<sup>11</sup> Within three (3) Business Days of entry of the Confirmation Order, an additional (i) \$15 million from cash on hand will be placed into the segregated Litigation Funding Account for funding of the litigation associated with the Jointly Asserted Causes of Action (the "Litigation Funding") and (ii) \$5 million will be placed into the segregated Cash Reserve Account for post-Confirmation estate costs including, without limitation, additional professional fees of the Debtors' and the Creditors' Committee not included in the Carve-Out Account as of the entry of the Confirmation Order (the "Cash Reserve").

<sup>12</sup> To the extent there are any amounts remaining for distribution after the Non Opt-out Settled Admin Claims have received the percentage recovery equal to the Initial Recovery, the Opt-In Settled Admin Claims shall share pro rata in such excess with the Non Opt-Out Settled Admin Claims.

<sup>13</sup> The Second Distribution shall not occur until each of the following conditions is met: (i) a total of \$25 million has been funded into the Litigation Funding Account in the aggregate, (ii) there has been a funding of \$10 million in the aggregate in the Cash Reserve Account and (iii) the Segregated Account has an additional \$10 million in cash (together, the "Minimum Conditions").

**2. Risk of Non-Occurrence of Effective Date**

Although the Debtors believe that the Effective Date will occur soon after the Confirmation Date, there can be no assurance as to the timing of the Effective Date. If the conditions precedent to the Effective Date set forth in the Plan have not occurred or have not been waived as set forth in Article X of the Plan or the Debtors are unable to pay their obligations as required under section 1129(a)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, then the Confirmation Order may be vacated. Any Distributions made on account of Settled Administrative Expense Claims shall not be subject to disgorgement, including without limitation, upon any conversion or dismissal of the Chapter 11 Cases.

**3. Risks Related to the Causes of Action**

There is no guarantee as to the success of pursuing any Cause of Action. The success of the Debtors and the Creditors' Committee or Liquidating Trust in pursuing any Cause of Action, as well as the expenses incurred in investigating and prosecuting the Causes of Action, may materially affect the recoveries for the holders of Allowed Claims.

**4. No Legal or Tax Advice Is Provided by this Disclosure Statement**

The contents of this notice should not be construed as legal, business, or tax advice. Each holder of a Claim should consult their own legal counsel and accountant as to legal, tax, and other matters concerning their Claim. This notice may not be relied upon for any purpose other than to determine how to be treated under the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program.

**5. No Admission Made**

Nothing contained herein or in the Plan shall constitute an admission of, or shall be deemed evidence of, the tax or other legal effects of the Plan or Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program on the Debtors or holders of Claims or Interests.

For additional risk factors and considerations, including the position of Transform and/or ESL Parties, please review section VIII.A of the Disclosure Statement. Should you wish to obtain a copy of the Disclosure Statement, Plan, Confirmation Order, the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program Term Sheet, or any other documents in these Chapter 11 Cases, you should contact the Debtors' Claims and Noticing Agent, Prime Clerk LLC by: (a) visiting the Debtors' restructuring website at: <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>; (b) writing to Sears Admin. Claims Consent Prgm Ballot Processing, c/o Prime Clerk LLC, 850 Third Avenue, Suite 412, Brooklyn, New York 11232; and/or (c) emailing [searsinfo@primeclerk.com](mailto:searsinfo@primeclerk.com). You may also obtain copies of any pleadings filed in the Chapter 11 Cases for a fee via PACER at: <http://www.vaeb.uscourts.gov>.

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**EXHIBIT A**

**OPT-IN BALLOT**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR OPT-IN ELECTION. IF YOU ELECT TO OPT-IN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE, AND TRANSMIT THIS OPT-IN BALLOT SO THAT IT IS ACTUALLY RECEIVED BY THE CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 18, 2019, AT 4:00 P.M. (PREVAILING EASTERN TIME)**

**YOU MAY RETURN YOUR OPT-IN BALLOT IN THE PRE-ADDRESSED, PRE-PAID RETURN ENVELOPE PROVIDED OR VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL, HAND DELIVERY, OR OVERNIGHT COURIER, TO:**

**SEARS ADMIN. CLAIMS CONSENT PRGM BALLOT PROCESSING  
C/O PRIME CLERK LLC  
850 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 412  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11232**

**To Submit Your Opt-In Ballot Via E-Ballot**

To submit your Opt-In via E-Ballot, visit <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>. Click on the "Submit E-Ballot" section of the website and follow the instructions to submit your Opt-In Ballot.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You will need the following information to retrieve and submit your electronic Opt-In Ballot:

**Unique E-Ballot ID#:** 182353801022528

E-Ballot is the sole manner in which Opt-In will be accepted via electronic or online transmission. Opt-In Ballots submitted by facsimile, email or other means of electronic transmission will not be valid. Any Opt-In submitted through E-Ballot with the Holder's electronic signature will be deemed to be immediately legally valid and effective.

Please complete and submit an electronic Opt-In Ballot for each E-Ballot ID# you receive, as applicable.

Holders who cast an Opt-In using E-Ballot should NOT also submit a Paper Copy.

**To Submit Your Opt-In Ballot Via Paper Copy**

To submit your Opt-In via Paper Opt-In Ballot, complete items 1, 2, and 3 below and submit your Paper Opt-In Ballot in the pre-addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided or by first-class mail, hand delivery, or overnight courier to:

Sears Admin. Claims Consent Prgm Ballot Processing  
c/o Prime Clerk LLC  
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412  
Brooklyn, New York 11232

**Item 1. Amount of Administrative Expense Claim(s).**

The undersigned hereby certifies that as of the date of completion of this Opt-In Ballot, the undersigned asserts it was the Holder of an Administrative Expense Claim(s) in the following aggregate amount:<sup>1</sup>

**\$ 331,086.28**

<sup>1</sup> This amount should represent the amount of your previously-asserted Administrative Expense Claim(s). If the Debtors do not have a specific Administrative Expense Claim amount on file for you, the box in Item 1 of this Opt-In Ballot will be blank. For reference purposes, you should insert the relevant amount of your alleged Administrative Expense Claim; however, for the avoidance of doubt, this Opt-In Ballot is not to be used to assert your Administrative Expense Claim(s). For more information about asserting an Administrative Expense Claim(s), visit the Debtors' case

**Item 2. Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program Election.** You may elect to opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program by checking the box below and returning this Opt-In Ballot to the Claims and Noticing Agent on or before the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline pursuant to the instructions set forth herein. If you return this Opt-In Ballot but do not check the box below or do not return this Opt-In Ballot, you will not be entitled to the Initial Distribution. If you submit multiple Opt-In Ballots, your last timely received Opt-In Ballot shall control. Election to withhold consent is at your option.



**THE HOLDER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM(S) SET FORTH IN  
ITEM 1 ELECTS TO OPT-IN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS  
CONSENT PROGRAM.**

**Item 3. Acknowledgments.** By signing this Opt-In Ballot, the undersigned Holder of an Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above certifies that (i) it is the Holder of the Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above or (ii) it has full power and authority to act on behalf of the Holder of the Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above.

**Level 3 Communications, LLC**

Name

47-0735805

Social Security or Federal Tax I.D. No. (optional)

**Signature:** Kim Bartlett

Kim Bartlett (Nov 20, 2019)

**Email:** bankruptylegal@centurylink.com

Signature

**Kim Bartlett, Sr. Paralegal**

If by Authorized Agent, Name and Title

**Level 3 Communications, LLC dba CenturyLink**

Name of Institution

1025 Eldorado Blvd. (Attn: Legal - BKY)

Street Address

Broomfield, CO 80021

City, State, Zip Code

720-888-1000

Telephone Number

bankruptylegal@centurylink.com

Email Address

11/20/19

Date Completed

**If you elect to opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program, please return your Opt-In Ballot promptly.** If you have any questions regarding this Opt-In Ballot or the procedures for opting out, please contact the Debtors' Claims and Noticing Agent, by: (a) visiting the Debtors' restructuring website at: <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>; (b) writing to Sears Admin. Claims Consent Prgm Ballot Processing, c/o Prime Clerk LLC, 850 Third Avenue, Suite 412, Brooklyn, New York 11232; and/or (c) emailing [searsinfo@primeclerk.com](mailto:searsinfo@primeclerk.com).

If the Claims and Noticing Agent does **not** actually receive the Opt-In Form on or before November 18, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time indicating your intent to opt-in to the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program (and if the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline is not extended), your opt-in election will not be effective.

website: <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>. The Debtors reserve the right to dispute and validate the amount of your asserted Administrative Expense Claim(s).

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**EXHIBIT B**

**OPT-OUT BALLOT**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR OPT-OUT ELECTION. IF YOU ELECT TO OPT-OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE, AND TRANSMIT THIS OPT-OUT BALLOT SO THAT IT IS ACTUALLY RECEIVED BY THE CLAIMS AND NOTICING AGENT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 18, 2019, AT 4:00 P.M. (PREVAILING EASTERN TIME)**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM AND DO NOT WISH TO OPT-OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS CONSENT PROGRAM, YOU DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME.**

**YOU MAY RETURN YOUR OPT-OUT BALLOT IN THE PRE-ADDRESSED, PRE-PAID RETURN ENVELOPE PROVIDED OR VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL, HAND DELIVERY, OR OVERNIGHT COURIER, TO:**

**SEARS ADMIN. CLAIMS CONSENT PRGM BALLOT PROCESSING  
C/O PRIME CLERK LLC  
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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11232**

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Please complete and submit an electronic Opt-Out Ballot for each E-Ballot ID# you receive, as applicable.

Holders who cast an Opt-Out using E-Ballot should NOT also submit a Paper Copy.

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c/o Prime Clerk LLC  
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412  
Brooklyn, New York 11232

**Item 1. Amount of Administrative Expense Claim(s).**

The undersigned hereby certifies that as of the date of completion of this Opt-Out Ballot, the undersigned asserts it was the Holder of an Administrative Expense Claim(s) in the following aggregate amount:<sup>1</sup>

\$ 331,086.28

**Item 2. Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program Election.** You may elect to opt-out of the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program by checking the box below and returning this Opt-Out Ballot to the Claims and Noticing Agent on or before the Opt-In/Opt-Out Deadline pursuant to the instructions set forth herein. If you return this Opt-Out Ballot but do not check the box below or do not return this Opt-Out Ballot, you will be bound by the Administrative Expense Claims Consent Program. If you submit multiple Opt-Out Ballots, your last timely received Opt-Out Ballot shall control. Election to withhold consent is at your option.



**THE HOLDER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM(S) SET FORTH IN  
ITEM 1 ELECTS TO OPT-OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIMS  
CONSENT PROGRAM.**

**Item 3. Acknowledgments.** By signing this Opt-Out Ballot, the undersigned Holder of an Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above certifies that (i) it is the Holder of the Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above or (ii) it has full power and authority to act on behalf of the Holder of the Administrative Expense Claim(s) identified in Item 1 above.

**Level 3 Communications, LLC**

Name

47-0735805

Social Security or Federal Tax I.D. No. (optional)

Signature: Kim Bartlett

Kim Bartlett (Nov 20, 2019)

Signature

Email: bankruptcylegal@centurylink.com

If by Authorized Agent, Name and Title

Kim Bartlett, Sr. Paralegal

Name of Institution

**Level 3 Communications, LLC dba CenturyLink**

Street Address

1025 Eldorado Blvd. (Attn: Legal - BKY)

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Broomfield, CO 80021

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Email Address

11/20/19

Date Completed

<sup>1</sup> This amount should represent the amount of your previously-asserted Administrative Expense Claim(s). If the Debtors do not have a specific Administrative Expense Claim amount on file for you, the box in Item 1 of this Opt-Out Ballot will be blank. For reference purposes, you should insert the relevant amount of your alleged Administrative Expense Claim; however, for the avoidance of doubt, this Opt-Out Ballot is not to be used to assert your Administrative Expense Claim(s). For more information about asserting an Administrative Expense Claim(s), visit the Debtors' case website: <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/sears>. The Debtors reserve the right to dispute and validate the amount of your asserted Administrative Expense Claim(s).

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